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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/030,766	10/22/2001	Sin Hui Cheah	RCA 89520	2040

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04/20/2005

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EXAMINER

SELLERS, DANIEL R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2644

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/030,766

Applicant(s)

CHEAH ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel R. Sellers

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/22/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On line 10, page 5, it is not clear what is meant by the acronym KW. It is believed to have been substituted for the acronym KB. On line 30, page 10, Figure 4 is referenced when Figure 5 is the drawing being discussed.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 24, 27-31, and 34-36. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Regarding claim 8, the trademark COMPACTFLASH is recited. A trademark is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. It is not clear as to what features are being claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

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Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Kaganas et al., U.S. Patent No 6,425,018 (hereinafter Kaganas).

3. Regarding claim 1, see Kaganas

In a handheld audio playback device, a method for playing back an audio data file, the audio data file being encoded in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of encoding formats, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a selected audio data file in response to a user input; (Col. 5, lines 4-14)

identifying a decoder file associated with the selected audio data file, the decoder file comprising a program to control the operations of a digital signal processor; (Col. 6, lines 46-48)

transferring the selected audio data file and the associated decoder file to the digital signal processor, wherein the audio data file and the associated decoder file are both stored in a single removable data storage device coupled to the handheld audio playback device; (Col. 6, lines 6-8)

decoding the selected audio data file in accordance with the decoder file in the digital signal processor, wherein the decoding is performed entirely within the digital signal processor; and (Col. 7, line 14)

providing the decoded audio data file to an output device. (Col. 5, lines 31-36)

Kaganas teaches these features in a portable audio device with wireless capabilities.

4. Regarding claim 2, the further limitation of claim 1, see Kaganas

... further comprising the step of reading a configuration file that associates each one of a plurality of audio data files with a particular one of a plurality of decoder files, and the identifying the decoder file step comprises identifying the decoder file using the configuration file.

Kaganas teaches the use of a plurality of codecs, and it is inherent that a codec is associated with a file format. Kaganas also teaches the use of an operating system for a plurality of uses, wherein they teach the use of Windows 95® when discussing e-mail and other communication features (Col. 3, lines 28-34). Popular operating systems maintain a list of programs associated with file types, such as ASCII text files. It is inherent that an operating system used for playback on the system of Kaganas maintains a configuration file regarding the association of codecs and audio data files.

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5. Regarding claim 3, the further limitation of claim 2, see Kaganas

... wherein the removable data storage device is a solid state data storage device. (Col.7, lines 44-52)

Kaganas teaches the use of solid state removable media.

6. Regarding claim 4, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 1, and see

Kaganas

A handheld audio playback apparatus for playing back an audio data file encoded in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of encoding formats, the apparatus comprising:

user input means for receiving user commands; (Fig. 1, unit 44)

data input means for receiving digital data; (Fig. 1, unit 37)

a digital signal processor; (Fig. 1, unit 31)

a micro-controller, coupled to the user input means, the data input means, the output means and the digital signal processor, for identifying a user selected audio data file and a decoder file associated with the user selected audio data file, the decoder file comprising a program for controlling the operation of the digital signal processor, and for transferring the user selected audio data file and the associated decoder file from a single removable data storage device to the digital signal processor In response to a user selection, the digital signal processor decoding the user selected audio data file in accordance with the associated decoder file, wherein the decoding is performed entirely within the digital signal processor. (Fig. 1, unit 32 and Col. 2, lines 10-13)

Kaganas teaches these features in a portable audio device.

7. Regarding claim 5, the further limitation of claim 4, see the preceding argument

with respect to claim 3. Kaganas teaches the use of a solid-state data storage device that is removable.

8. Regarding claim 6, see the preceding argument with respect to claims 4 and 5.

Kaganas teaches a portable audio playback system with these features.

9. Regarding claim 7, the further limitation of claim 6, see the preceding argument

with respect to claim 5. Kaganas teaches a removable solid-state storage device.

10. Regarding claim 8, the further limitation of claim 6, see the preceding argument

with respect to claim 3. Kaganas teaches a removable solid-state storage device in a small molded plastic card with connection terminals.

11. Regarding claim 9, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 2.

Kaganas inherently teaches the use of configuration files with codec-file associations.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kenner et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,314,565.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel R. Sellers whose telephone number is 571-272-7528. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DRS